

I don't see why all of the Extra Class licensees out there are griping about the CW requirement going away. Just because they had to learn it many years ago doesn't mean the next generation needs to learn it. I have taken the General Class test and passed it. I have 365 days to pass the CW portion in order to upgrade. I have learned the letters but when it comes time to copy it, I have trouble putting it all together. The first time I went to take my CW exam there was an older gentleman who was a VE and he was head of the exam session. Well, he called his exam sessions "Ham Holiday". This is an excuse for all of his old buddies to get together with him so they can chat. They were chatting during my test and were quite loud. I couldn't concentrate on my exam let alone hear the characters. I do NOT plan to use CW on HF frequencies at all. There is no need for it at all. Most Extra class licensees, who have never used CW once they passed their exam, couldn't pass it again. They would have to learn the code all over again. This is a waste of time to me. Just because Morse Code was the first radio transmission in history, doesn't mean it has to be a requirement for someone who is qualified to talk on a higher privileged frequency. There are a lot of people out there who could bring a lot of good things to this hobby but can't because they can't get passed the code. Morse Code to most humans, when heard, sounds like noise to the brain. Look up www.cq2k.com, this site will tell you that morse code sounds like foreign noise to people. The site teaches you how to put word phrases to the sounds of morse characters in order to learn the code. The FCC wants to promote technical knowledge and self promotion but its not going to happen when a person doesn't want to learn a mode of operation that they are never going to use. If I'm not going to use it, why do I have to learn it????